

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Absenteeism in VEB Plants	DATE DISTR.	14 March 1955	
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DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. In December 1954, the Leipzig District Social Insurance Commission (Sozial-versicherungs Kommission- S.V.K.) issued a circular to factory trade union organizations and to factory managements complaining of absenteeism. 25X1

2. Apart from other known factors, the circular stated that the reason for the nonfulfilment in 1954 of scheduled plans for general production and output of consumer goods, as well as for the reduction of overhead, was in part attributable to absenteeism caused by sickness.

3. As an example, the circular mentioned VEB Eisenbau Leipzig, in which the number of workers receiving sick benefits (Lohnausgleich) was estimated to be 4.5%. The actual percentage of absenteeism due to sickness in this plant amounted to 8%. It was interesting to note also that since the total paid as wages was the same as the estimate, 3.5% of the absentees must have drawn full wages (instead of half the standard wage they were entitled to as sick benefit) by manipulation.

4. The circular also gave the following percentages of absenteeism caused by sickness in other Leipzig factories:

VEB Bleichert Transportanlagenfabrik	11.5%
VEB Leipziger Stahlbau und Verzinkerei	8 %
Iron and steel works ¹	7.8%
Agricultural machinery works ²	9 %

5. In conclusion, the circular gave the following comparative figures for absenteeism due to sickness in German industry over the years.

Year	Percentage of Absenteeism
1926/32	3.4 to 4.3% (for all Germany)
1948	4% approx. (in East Germany)
1949	4.12% " "
1950	4.7% " "
1951	5.2% " "
1952	6.7% " "
1953	7.8% " "
1954	10% estimated "

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X	AEC	X		X		X
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)															

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1. Comment: Not further identified; probably VEB Leipziger Eisen- und Stahlwerke. 25X1
2. Comment: No further identified; probably VEB Bodenbearbeitungsgeraete. 25X1

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